

better off today because of the Showers' extraordinary leadership and service in their community.

On a personal note, I have known J.R. and Carol for the past two decades. They hosted my first event as a state legislator in Shelby County. And, they have supported our efforts every step of the way since. J.R. and Carol are loyal friends and wise advisers. Jennifer and I cherish our friendship with the Showers and I will always be grateful for their support of my work in Congress. We wish them continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

ISIS IS RESURGING IN THE
PHILIPPINES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ISIS fighters are regrouping in the Philippines. It was only a year ago that Philippine forces, with help from the U.S. military, retook the city of Marawi after a bloody five-month siege. Reports now suggest that fresh ISIS foreign fighters have arrived in the area and are preparing to unleash a new wave of terror. America must be prepared to blunt their resurgence.

It should surprise no one, that after the fall of ISIS's so-called caliphate in Syria and Iraq, that the terror group would disperse its fighters and attempt to build a new caliphate somewhere else. Two decades of fighting jihadists has shown they are an adaptive and relentless foe. ISIS itself was defeated by U.S. forces in Iraq almost a decade ago but because of Obama's naïve withdrawal, was able to rally new recruits and exploit instability in the Middle East. But we have learned our lessons and will not stand by as ISIS attempts another revival.

We are in a long war with ISIS, al-Qaeda, and other extremists. From Mali to Mindanao, America has stood ready to confront jihadism much as we stood ready to counter communism around the globe during the Cold War. The Philippines is a strategic ally of the United States and we will not abandon our commitments. We must see to it that the Philippines have what they need to crush ISIS's attempted comeback and ensure its lasting defeat.

ISIS's attempts to regroup will not end in the Philippines. Our successes against ISIS remain fragile and, without continued vigilance, can be undone. Our allies must know that the U.S. is prepared to stand with them but also note that it is their fight as well. It is their security that is most threatened by ISIS's crusade of terror. We are in this fight together until the ideology that drives Islamic extremism relegated to history.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LIBBY GERMANO,
KENNA GIFFORD, AND NICOLE
SIMOS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Libby Germano, Kenna Gifford, and Nicole Simos for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 115th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young professionals has been nothing short of exemplary. During their time in my office, Libby, Kenna, and Nicole served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, conducted legislative research and learned a great deal about the United States Congress. I know they all have especially bright futures ahead of them and I look forward to seeing them build their prospective careers.

All three of these impeccable interns have made plans to continue their educational careers throughout the United States. I am certain they will continue in their great success and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Libby Germano, Kenna Gifford, and Nicole Simos for their service this autumn.

HONORING MAYOR MIKE BETTICE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Mayor Mike Bettice for his contribution to our state and the City of Batesville.

Throughout his career, Mike has served the City of Batesville with honor and integrity. As mayor, Mike has done an incredible job of engaging the Batesville community and working to ensure its success. Our state is better off today because of his leadership and service.

On a personal note, we are both proud alums of Wabash College. Mike is a loyal confidant and among my closest friends in politics. I want to thank him for his support of my work in Congress and wish Mike continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEBANON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department and to thank its dedicated members for their commitment to their community and the residents of eastern Connecticut.

The Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department was founded in September 1943 by 53 Lebanon residents without any equipment or station of their own. The first chief of the company, Clark W. Standish, obtained permission from the State Forestry Department to use their truck and equipment until Lebanon could procure their own. Since the department's inception, its volunteers have consistently served the Town of Lebanon demonstrating courage and compassion in times of crisis and distress for their friends, families, and neighbors. For decades Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has also provided the same exceptional and brave service to surrounding towns and communities under mutual aid agreements. The department has grown and adapted to the changing needs of the Town while remaining an all-volunteer force, providing fire, EMS, and hazmat services for the protection of life, property, and the environment.

This growth and innovation by Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has intensified in the wake of the post-9/11 world. As my colleagues know, the new Department of Homeland Security, which was created in the wake of the tragedy, established the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program which has provided recurring grants to local departments all across the country. The grant process is an annual one and requires knowledge and expertise for departments big and small to access these funds for needed equipment and training. In Connecticut's Second District, the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has graciously hosted annual AFG seminars for communities all across the region. Given that this program is competitive, Lebanon's willingness to share updates on ways to successfully navigate the grant process speaks highly of their commitment to public safety for all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring these dedicated public servants both living and deceased, whose dedication and heroism have made this auspicious occasion possible. All firefighters and EMTs make sacrifices of time and take significant personal risks for the protection of the communities they serve. We in eastern Connecticut are ever so fortunate and grateful to be protected by the courageous men and women of Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

HONORING MATTHEW BRITTAIN OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my constituent, Matthew Brittain, for his accomplishment in earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in scouting; only a small number of Boy Scouts earn this auspicious title. The Eagle Scout is performance-based and has high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by myriad requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Scout project to benefit the community.

Matthew has been recognized as a valuable member of Troop 15, and has served in various leadership positions like Troop Guide and Senior Patrol Leader. His Eagle Scout project was to clean, repair, and refurbish an outdoor band shell for the picnic grove of the Salem UCC Church in Dover, Pennsylvania.

I have long appreciated the commitment of people who demonstrate hard work and selfless devotion to serving our communities and fellow citizens. On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I recognize and congratulate Eagle Scout Matthew Brittain on his great accomplishment and community service. I wish Matthew continued success and Godspeed in his future adventures.

HONORING JEFF AND DANAE
SPONSEL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Jeff and Danae Sponsel for their contribution to our state and country.

Over the years, Jeff and Danae have served the City of Shelbyville and Shelby County in a variety of roles with honor and distinction. Jeff is always quick with a joke, yet has a fiery passion for serving his fellow Hoosiers. He has spent years serving in various positions in the community, including on the City Council and as the Shelby County Election Deputy. Danae is a rock star and has dedicated herself toward advancing Republican principles with the local party. It has been an honor to work with them and our state is better off today because of their extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, Jeff and Danae were among my earliest supporters of my first run for the state legislature. Jennifer and I cherish our friendship with both Jeff and Danae and I would like to thank them for their support of my work in Congress. We wish them continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

JIM KENNEDY RETIRES FROM THE
VICTORVILLE CITY COUNCIL

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of outgoing Victorville City Council Member Jim Kennedy who will leave the dais on Tuesday, December 4, 2018.

Jim was first elected to Victorville City Council in 2010 and has served the city for eight years, including terms as Mayor and Mayor Pro-tem. In addition to his position as council member, Jim has served as a board member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Inland Empire Chapter of the California Society of CPAs, the City Audit Committee, and as a delegate to Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority.

During his time on the council, Jim has been a passionate advocate for Victorville and its residents. He supported key infrastructure projects including the Nisqualli/La Mesa interchange, which provided a key transit corridor to help alleviate traffic congestion. Jim also fought to keep Victorville residents safe, and consistently voted to add additional sheriff's deputies and firefighters to the city's budget.

I thank Council Member Jim Kennedy for his leadership and dedication to public service on behalf of Victorville residents. Jim has been a true model of civility and decorum on the Victorville City Council, and he will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING EVAN GWOZDZ

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Evan Gwozdz, a student-athlete from Middleborough, Massachusetts and the National Recipient of the 2017–2018 Student-Athlete Scholarship from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Each year, the NIAAA awards scholarships to high school student-athletes who exemplify the qualities of scholastic excellence, leadership, and sportsmanship. Without question, Evan was a worthy selection for this prestigious award. An honors student in the classroom, Evan was his class valedictorian, a National Merit Scholar, and a national winner of the Rensselaer Medal for outstanding achievements in math and science. As a high-profile athlete and the top student in his class at Middleborough High School, Evan demonstrates a true commitment to excellence in Massachusetts.

On the field, Evan lettered in football, baseball, and track, garnering numerous awards during his high school career. Evan led his indoor track team in points and was a South Shore League long jump champion; played three years of varsity baseball without ever getting caught stealing; and led Middleborough High School to their first state football championship since 1983 while being named the Boston Globe Division 6 Player of the Year.

A native of Cape Cod, Evan was intrinsically driven at an early age. Starting in third grade, he began a meticulous schedule juggling a multitude of academic, athletic, and extra-curricular commitments. He had never played football before he joined the team in high school, so he took extra time to improve his game—a commitment that has undoubtedly paid off. Evan is currently a quarterback at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while majoring in chemical engineering, and he also is cross-registered at Harvard and earning a business degree.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Evan Gwozdz for his many accomplishments, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him and wishing him great success in the future. It is truly inspiring to see a such dynamic and passionate person follow their dream, and I know we will see more great things from him in the future.

HONORING GEORGE SMITH ON HIS
50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE
LEBANON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of George Smith of Lebanon, CT, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a member of the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

George, a native of Rocky Grove, PA, started his vocation as a public servant after graduating from high school in 1954. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Korean Conflict, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam Conflict over his 21 years of active military service, reaching the rank of E8 Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman.

George and his family moved to Lebanon, CT in 1966. Following in his first-responder parents' footsteps, he decided to become a firefighter and joined the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department in May 1968. In 1978, he joined the Lebanon Constabulary and served as a constable for a decade. He also provided emergency medical services and performed firefighting tasks. Over the course of his public service to the town he has also served as Fire Lieutenant, Fire Police Lieutenant, elected department secretary, and currently as Fire Police Captain.

For 50 years, George has been committed to serving Lebanon residents by protecting them, their families, pets, and livestock, as well as lands and properties throughout the town. He holds life member status at the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing George Smith's milestone anniversary as well as his remarkable record of service to the town of Lebanon. Volunteering one's life for the protection of others is no small sacrifice, and in this way, Mr. Smith has been exceptionally selfless. Let us all express our gratitude for this fine gentleman.

HONORING BILL AND KAYE
WHITEHEAD

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Bill and Kaye Whitehead for their contribution to our state and their community.

The Whiteheads have spent their lives serving the Delaware County community. They are full-time farmers but Bill and Kaye spend much of their time serving their community in numerous capacities. Their embodiment of "Hoosier hospitality" has truly made a difference in Delaware County and our state is better off today because of their extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, I've known the Whiteheads for 18 years. Jennifer and I cherish their friendship. Bill, like me, overachieved